(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether such a scheme would not help in preventing suicides being committed by farmers all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Union Budget 2007-08 has announced the introduction of Weather (Rainfall) based Crop Insurance Scheme on pilot basis in 2-3 States. The scheme is proposed to be implemented on actuarial basis with an element of upfront subsidy in premium. This pilot scheme is proposed to be implemented initially in selected areas and crops of Karnataka and Maharashtra subject to availability of adequate rainfall data and consent of the concerned State. A budgetary provision of Rs. 100 crores has been announced in the Union Budget 2007-08 and the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) will be the implementing agency for the proposed scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Providing insurance protection against adverse weather conditions is considered an efficient risk mitigation tool. It is, therefore, expected that farmers would be compensated adequately for the crop loss due to unfavourable weather conditions. Suicides committed on account of financial distress may be prevented to a large extent.

Water logging in cultivable lands of Haryana

†4004. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that hundred acres of cultivated land in some villages, especially in the Lohgarh village under Sirsa district in Haryana is lying unutilized due to water logging and farmers are unable to grow crops due to this problem;

(b) if so, whether Government are providing any financial help to the farmers for the damage being caused to their crops for the last six-seven years and whether farmers would be given any compensation; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) whether Government would take any concrete steps to get rid of the problem of water logging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) According to survey conducted by State Government of Haryana, waterlogged area has been observed around Lohgarh village situated near Rajasthan Canal falling in Sirsa District in Haryana due to seepage of the Canal. For reclamation of such areas, the laying of sub surface Drainage System is not feasible. The Irrigation Department of Haryana Government has therefore, installed 3 tube-wells to lift out excess water from affected fields to the near by canal for improving the soil fertility and enabling the farmers to grow the crop.

As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land is a State subject and it is for the State Governments to take a decision for compensation to the farmers.

Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal, and the State Government of Haryana are jointly implementing Haryana Operation Pilot Project (HOPP) for reclamation of water logged and salinity in the four districts, namely, Bhiwani, Sonepat, Jhajjar and Sirsa in the State. Under this project subsurface drainage technology is adopted for reclamation of water logged and saline lands and about 1500 ha. area has been reclaimed to demonstrate the technology for adoption by the farmers in other similar areas.

Cultivable land

†4005. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total cultivable land available in the country, at present, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to use agriculture land for generating income from other business such as industry;

(c) if not, the measures taken by Government to stop this trend; and

(d) Government's plan to increase the area of cultivable land?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi